

## **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS) 2015 FINAL REPORT**

Project Title: **Blackberry Control**

Station: William L Finley NWR- WVNWRC

Contact Person: Molly Monroe

Project Description: Himalayan Blackberry has become a substantial threat to large expanses of open oak savanna habitat on Finley NWR. While mowing and burning help to keep it at bay, these control methods rarely kill the plant. Carefully timed herbicide application combined with mowing and burning has been found to kill the plant, returning the habitat to primarily herbaceous. Out of the 775 of acres that contain blackberry, approximately 320 acres were treated in 2014. This proposal would fund a spring follow-up on previously treated acres as well as add up to 200 new acres to the list of treated areas.

Invasive Species Targeted: Himalayan Blackberry

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: August 2016

Project Results: Over 400 acres were treated for blackberry in 2015 ranging from native wet prairie to the understory of oak woodlands and oak savanna. Of those, 216 acres were repeat applications from areas treated in 2014. Approximately 269 treated acres were burned in 2015 which has shown to provide the best results for eradicating blackberry from native habitats. Acres that were sprayed for blackberry were either mowed or burned allowing for minimal treatments necessary in future years. A few highlights from this year's efforts include a portion of the Willamette Floodplain Research Natural Area being sprayed for blackberry followed by an overdue prescribed burn which will hopefully benefit wet prairie species such as peacock larkspur next spring. Another area that will greatly benefit from the combination of spraying and burning is Bellfountain Prairie where efforts to maintain and expand a healthy population of golden paintbrush continue. Plans to utilize remaining funds on acres in the process of being restored to native are in progress for 2016 prior to the completion date for this project.

Number of Acres Treated: 411

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: 411

Number of Acres Restored: 162

Total Grant Amount: \$24,500

Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total \$ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment/Supplies		
Chemical		
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Biotech/Contractor Salary	18,000	73%
Restoration Materials		
Other (Describe)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	18,000	

South Prairie (part of RNA), treated for blackberry and burned in fall 2015.



A section of oak savannah treated for blackberry followed by a prescribed burn.

